

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) CASE NO. 13-CR-00121 JST  
Plaintiff, )  
v. )  
AURORA MARIN, )  
a/k/a Guadalupe Gaona, )  
a/k/a Aurora Marin Medina, )  
a/k/a Aracely M. Ramirez, )  
a/k/a Araceli Ramirez Medina, )  
NICANOR SILVA, and )  
FIDEL HURTADO, )  
Defendants. )

1       Defendant Aurora Marin (“Defendant”) came before this Court on April 1, 2013 for hearing on  
2 the Government’s appeal of the Magistrate’s Order of Pretrial Release. Assistant United States Attorney  
3 Katie Medearis appeared on behalf of the United States. Attorney Mary McNamara appeared on behalf  
4 of the Defendant. The Government requested pretrial detention of Defendant, submitting that no  
5 condition or combination of conditions would reasonably assure her appearance because she presented a  
6 serious risk of flight, as well as a danger to the community. Defendant opposed this request. Pretrial  
7 Services submitted a report recommending detention, unless Defendant could offer a secured bond and  
8 resolve her ICE detainer.

9       Having thoroughly considered the Government’s moving papers, Defendant’s opposition thereto,  
10 the Pretrial Services Report, and the oral arguments of counsel, and for the reasons set forth below, the  
11 Court finds that the Government has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that Defendant is a  
12 serious flight risk, and that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure her  
13 appearance. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e).

14       As an initial matter, the Court finds that the United States failed to prove by clear and convincing  
15 evidence that Defendant is a danger to the community. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)(B). The offense of  
16 which Defendant is accused is not a crime of violence. She was not in possession of a firearm when she  
17 was arrested, and the Government does not allege that she used violence in the commission of the crime.  
18 While Defendant has a prior criminal history, she has no record of violence. Therefore, danger to the  
19 community is not a basis for detention.

20       The Court does find, however, that the facts support a finding that Defendant presents a serious  
21 risk of flight based on the factors identified in Bail Reform Act (“BRA”). 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e). In  
22 accordance with the BRA, the Court considered the following factors, which are paraphrased as follows:  
23 (1) the nature and seriousness of the offense charged; (2) the weight of the evidence against the  
24 defendant; (3) the history and characteristics of the defendant, including, among other considerations,  
25 employment, past conduct and criminal history, and records of court appearances; and (4) the nature and  
26 seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed by the defendant’s  
27 release. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g).

28       Based on the following facts, the Court concludes that Defendant presents a serious risk of flight,

1 and that no conditions or combination of conditions will mitigate that risk and assure Defendant's  
2 appearance in court:

3           (1) The nature and circumstances of the offense are serious. Defendant is charged with drug  
4 trafficking and conspiracy, in violations of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(b)(1)(A)(viii) and 846.

5           (2) The weight of the evidence against Defendant is substantial. Defendant was observed  
6 participating in a drug transaction and transporting a bag containing over 800 grams of  
7 methamphetamine to the incident location. Although Defendant's counsel raises a question as to  
8 whether Defendant knew what was in the bag, the Court is mindful that Defendant was previously  
9 convicted of, and served a significant state prison sentence for, possession of methamphetamine for sale.

10          (3) With respect to Defendant's history and characteristics, the Court notes that Defendant is a  
11 Mexican citizen. Defendant has current ties to that country because many of her family members live in  
12 Mexico. Defendant was caught in possession of false identification cards, and she has used multiple  
13 dates of birth and numerous aliases. It would be easy for her to flee, and she a motivation to do so. The  
14 Court is not persuaded by Defendant's argument that the possession of false identification is customary  
15 for illegal aliens as an explanation for this particular case.

16          The Court also notes that Defendant does not have any bail resources that would allow her  
17 release on a secured bond. Defendant has no verified employment that would establish a legitimate  
18 means of support. When asked about her employment, Defendant provided information to Pretrial  
19 Services that she was employed as a housekeeper. She was unable to provide the name or telephone  
20 number of her alleged employer, and her significant other told Pretrial Services that Defendant was not,  
21 in fact, so employed.

22          The Court recognizes the Defendant's unique physical and mental conditions. She very recently  
23 gave birth to a child. These factors by themselves, however, are not adequate to rebut the other factors  
24 listed above.

25          ///

26          ///

27          ///

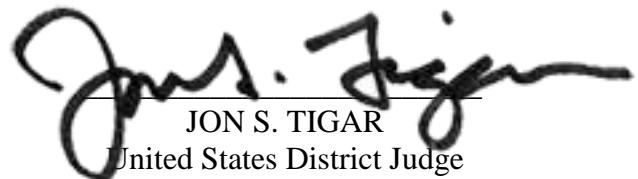
28          ///

1       The Court finds that Defendant has not rebutted the presumption of detention present in this  
2 narcotics case and that the Government has met its burden by showing by preponderance of the evidence  
3 that Defendant is a serious flight risk. Accordingly, the Court ORDERS Defendant detained pending  
4 trial.<sup>1</sup>

5       IT IS SO ORDERED.

6

7 Dated: April 4, 2013



JON S. TIGAR  
United States District Judge

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

---

<sup>1</sup> Having found that a detention order is appropriate, the Court finds it unnecessary to reach the question of what effect, if any, an ICE detainer order should or would have on defendant's release.